

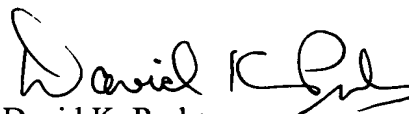
REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Office Action. Applicant also appreciates the allowance of Claims 1-14 and 21-27, and the statement that Claims 18-20 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have been amended as follows to place the application in condition for allowance: Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to independent form including all recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; Claims 15-17, 28, and 30 have been canceled; and Claim 29 has been amended as suggested by the Office Action to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 101 and 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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